

G-V-A-044  
Red House School  
Red House  
Private

Late 19th century

Red House School is a rectangular, one bay by three bay balloon frame building with a gable end facade. It rests on a stone foundation and is sheathed with weatherboard. Three 6/6 sash windows are evenly spaced on the two long walls and a four-panel door with a three pane transom light pierces the facade. Schools of this basic form were commonly built in the rural areas of Garrett County from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-V-A-044  
MAGI #1209914602  
ML

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Redhouse School

AND/OR COMMON

Redhouse School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

US Route 219 &amp; 50 - North corner

CITY, TOWN

Redhouse

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS ..

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Benjamin F. Knepp, Jr.

Telephone #: (301) 334-4079

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 275

Folio #: 538

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Redhouse School is located on the west side of U.S. Route 219 just north of its intersection with U.S. Route 50. The facade of the school faces the road, pointing southeast.

The one story schoolhouse is a rectangular one bay by three bay, balloon frame building with a gable end facade.

The building sits on a coursed, roughly squared stone foundation. Weatherboard with cornerboards covers its exterior walls. Three, six over six sash windows with plain board surrounds are evenly spaced on the northeast and southwest elevations and a four-panel door with a three pane transom light pierces the facade. The gable roof has a brick chimney located at the center of the ridgeline. Its cornice consists of boxed rafter ends with a frieze of two plain horizontal boards.

A scar across the facade indicates the location of a porch that has fallen. An undated historic photograph of the building reveals a shed porch with four supports in this location as well as a pointed arch, brick spark guard on the chimney.

The interior is a one room classroom paneled with narrow horizontal board. The ceiling is covered with a narrower board and the window surrounds are plain.

( See G-V-A-045 Knepp Gas Station, negative # 31: mid 1930's photograph of Knepp Gas Station and Red House School. )

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES	late 19th century	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The single story, gable facade form of this building and its one bay by three bay size is typical of the rural schools found in Garrett County from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. (See also: G-V-A-117 Corunna School, G-II-A-046 Asher Glade School, G-I-A-085 Dorsey School,)

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

March 1981

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

GRACE E. FILER'S RAMBLINGS

In 1931 Professor Franklin D. Rathbun appointed me to this one room school at Red House, Maryland, to complete the term of Mrs. Leona Pressman Ward.

I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shaffer. These wonderful people were just like grandparents to me. They were typical Garrett County Pioneers. They were deeply religious and of the Lutheran faith. Mrs. Shaffer taught the Ladies Bible class and played the piano for church services. They were both avid readers. Mrs. Shaffer was an accomplished musician. She had a boundless energy. She was a wonderful cook and baker. She was famous for her griddle cakes and people traveled great distances to enjoy them. Their home was heated with wood, and they both cut the wood and stacked it. They loved the outdoors. Mr. Shaffer belonged to the National Guard and was stationed in Eckhart, Maryland during the coal strikes. He was a great fisherman and in the winter would make his own lines, flies and sinkers. He also was a skilled hunter and made the lead pellets for his gun by melting the lead in the kitchen and pouring it into molds. On Sundays they always brought friends home to dinner. They had many grandchildren and each one was dearly loved.

THE OLD BUILDING

It was a small one room building measuring about 30 feet by 20 feet, with windows on either side. There were two outside toilets, one for the boys and one for the girls, and a coal house. Across the front was a blackboard and a teachers desk. Between the windows was stretched green burlap which served as our bulletin boards. In the back of the room, to the left, was a shelf or two for lunch boxes and nails for hanging coats on. To the right was a water bucket, wash pan and water cooler. The water was carried from Mr. Ben Knepps residence. The boys loved to take turns carrying the water. In the middle of the floor was a giant pot bellied - frost killer stove. Not much money was spent on the old building in anticipation of the new one. The floor had ridges in it and the wind would blow up your skirts. Around the stove the floor was covered with a huge tin Mail Pouch Tobacco sign. The floor was oiled occasionally to keep down the dust. We were bounded on one side by the Lutheran Cemetery and we couldn't have recess on days of funerals.

The children sat in double seats. On very cold days, below zero, there were many absent and we pulled the desks closer to the stove.

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THE OLD BUILDING (cont.)

The janitor was paid two dollars a month to build the fires and keep the building clean.

The janitors were Denver Martin, Alvin Lee and Jessie Shuttleworth.

There were fifty pupils enrolled. When Mr. Marshall Brown came to administer State Tests he had to climb over the many pupils desks.

There were few discipline problems. These were taken care of at home. This was like one big family we all had respect and affection for each other. It was like "Open Space Schools Today" only better. These were indeed "Happy Days".

I cried myself to sleep one night because Orville Wolfe got hit in the head with a bat and had a terrible lump.

UNUSUAL SCHOOL LAW (100 days)

In the late twenties and early thirties the Garrett County School law allowed boys to enter school on November first and leave in early May. They were only required to attend one hundred days. They were needed on the farms in the Spring for planting, and in the Fall for harvesting. These young men were eager to get an education and often attended school in their late teens and were married soon after.

BUS ROUTES & DRIVERS

One of the finest bus drivers ever to operate a school bus in these United States was Mr. Ernest Gortner. He was affectionately called by the name "Ern" and had a reputation equaled by none. Ern lost an arm while serving in the Armed Services during World War 1. The loss of his arm didn't keep him from being a skilled driver. He would make many extra stops and wait patiently for stragglers. This was a blessing in Garrett County's severe winter weather. His run was from Gnegy Church to Oakland

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BUS ROUTES & DRIVERS (cont.)

High School. To my knowledge he never had an accident.

Other excellent drivers and men of integrity were Mr. Paul Welch and Mr. Greely O. Janoske.

THE NEW BUILDING

What a thrill. We thought the time would never come. At last, moving day, how we had packed all the materials in our beloved one room school was a mystery.

The new building had two large rooms, one for grades 1, 2 and 3 and the other for grades 4, 5, 6 and 7. There was a book room lined with shelves. A spacious "Girls Room" and "Boys Room", and a large auditorium in the basement and a kitchen furnace room. The entrance was from a small cement covered porch, leading into a spacious hall. The building was of red brick with white trim. The side facing the 219 had all large windows. The roof was of twilight blended color shingles. Before the furnace was installed the building was heated by huge coal stoves.

We had drinking fountains for the first time.

Two sides of the room, front and left, were chalk boards. The rear was a cloak room with hooks and lunch shelves. The back was a huge bulletin board with book shelves underneath. We had electric lights and an electric bell. We had a curved driveway for school buses.

We had a huge grassy playground and later a ball field.

Underneath the front windows were beautiful shrubbery. These were planted by the University of Maryland Horticulture Group as a courtesy to me, a former graduate. These boys were supervised by Reverend Alvah K. Jones. He also supervised their care. We had sidewalks leading to the playground. The auditorium is now classrooms and new additions have been made.

The janitors in the new building were Amos Martin, Franklin Wolfe, Herbert Soelders, Ray Mosser and Earl Harsh.



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Two schools were combined, Gnegy Church and Red House.

Mrs. Marguerite Cook Wilson was the teacher of Grades 1, 2 and 3. A better friend I'll never have.

Grace E. Filer was a teaching principal for about twelve years at Red House.

#### TRUSTEES OF THE RED HOUSE SCHOOL

Benjamin F. Knepp  
Ray E. Mosser  
John Bachtel  
James Hamilton  
Amos Martin  
Dewey Gnegy  
George Martin  
Frank Shaffer

Trustees had to sign the teachers attendance report before she could be paid. It would take three nights to have the report taken home to farm homes to be signed. Trustees had to approve of the teacher and recommend her for re-hiring. They also were responsible for requesting repairs to the school building. Any unusual problems were referred to the trustees. These men were selected on the basis of their citizenship. They were the best men in the community. You could never place a value on their services. They served without any pay and helped make Garrett County schools the finest.

#### THE GREATEST GIFT

For Christmas, December 19, 1940, the pupils of Red House School presented me with a black leather bound Bible. It has my name, Grace Filer, written in gold on the front cover. It has a protective inch flap. It grows more beautiful with the years and is now thirtysix years old and I treasure it dearly. It has a thumb index, is the King James Version and contains many maps. Between the Old Testament and New Testament is a beautifully decorated Family Register. The words of our Savior are printed in Red. In the back is a complete Concordance of References. This Bible was

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presented to me by Catherine Knepp, she was selected by the students. She collected the money for the Bible. It was a complete surprise to me. This Bible has served me well as a Sunday School Teacher and has been a comfort to me. These hand written signatures are in the front and back of the Bible:

- 1) Ruby Martin
- 2) Mary Lena Biggs
- 3) Lorene Gnegy
- 4) Clarence Wolfe
- 5) Geneva Kimble
- 6) Benny Knepp
- 7) Wayne Hauser
- 8) Lois Ann Bachtel
- 9) Carroll Luzier
- 10) Leona Hebb

---- 1940 - Fourth Grade

- 1) Ruth Keyser
- 2) Louise Smith
- 3) Eva Martin
- 4) Blanche Martin
- 5) Charles Aronhalt
- 6) Junior Kimble
- 7) Clifton Reall
- 8) Ralph Pritts, Jr.
- 9) Gilbert Smith
- 10) Harry Bray

---- Fifth Grade

- 1) Dale Shaffer
- 2) Donald Drenning
- 3) George Hauser
- 4) Billy Chisholm
- 5) Robert Hauser
- 6) Wilda Gnegy
- 7) Geneva Brown
- 8) Barbara Bachtel
- 9) Colene Martin

----- Sixth Grade

- 1) Twila Poling
- 2) Eileen Rolfe
- 3) Catherine Knepp
- 4) Bonnie Simmons
- 5) Edna Beckman
- 6) Helen Shaffer
- 7) Ruth Hauser
- 8) Ethel Ridder
- 9) Betty Smith
- 10) Eugene Bachtel

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THE GREATEST GIFT (cont.)

- 11) Cecil Simmons  
12) Lavonna Whitehair

----- Seventh Grade

CURRICULUM

We always began the day with the Lords Prayer and a favorite hymn. This was followed by the pledge to our flag and a patriotic song. Then we had stories and poems, and sometimes riddles and jokes.

Everyday all grades had Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic and English. The children worked in groups - 1 alone - 2 and 3 - 3 and 4 - 4 and 5 - 6 and 7. We alternated Geography and History. Once a week we had Civics, Agriculture and Health. The older pupils helped the younger pupils. Leland Mosser and Mildred Hamilton were like having two student teachers. First grade learned as much from them as they did from me. They also made flash cards, decorated bulletin boards, drilled on Arithmetic Combinations. Mildred went away to college but has always kept in touch. Leland is like family to me, he even drove his sister, Mrs. Earl Harsh, his father, Ray Mosser and Mr. Benjamine Knepp to my retirement dinner in Eckhart, Maryland. It was the high point of my evening. I will never be able to thank him enough. That night I received a citation from Governor Mandel of Maryland for 44 years as an Elementary Principal. It was presented to me by Delegate William Byrnes of Eckhart.

ART

Miss Catherine Baker came to Red House once a week, on Friday, for two periods. She taught Grades 1 thru 7. Here we learned we had a natural artist, little Miss Catherine Knepp. She could play the piano, sing, dance, draw, paint and do all kinds of hand work. I was so proud of the talent invested in this little girl. In High School she excelled in all studies. She left us while a music major at Potomac State College. Her life was not in vain; she left so many people with so many happy memories.

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MUSIC

Mr. Gibson, State Music Supervisor, saw that each school was supplied with one song book for each grade, to be used by the teacher. Each teacher was required to purchase her own pitch pipe. The sixth and seventh grades were required to read music by syllables. We did much singing by rote.

We were lucky to have Mrs. James Hamilton (Nella), mother of Wayne, Mildred and Harold Hamilton, in our school community. She was an accomplished pianist and vocalist. One source of our money raising was having commercial operettas. This required weeks of practicing. Mrs. Hamilton produced the best operettas it has ever been my pleasure to see, we had huge crowds. When we were ready for our first operetta, the seats for the auditorium had not yet arrived. Father Sauer, the priest of the Oakland Catholic Church loaned us the chairs from his cafeteria. They had not even been unpacked. I never heard of such unselfish cooperation. It was through the efforts of Mrs. Hamilton that we were able to pay for a brand new small piano. Some of my fond memories were Tom Sawyer, Boot Black Minstrels, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm and many others.

SCIENCE

Mrs. Caroline Wilson helped introduce Science into the Curriculum. Dr. Carpenter asked the upper grades of Red House to use his experimental records and help perfect them. For this we would receive a complete set of the records. We would listen to the records, follow suggestions and instructions and write up the results and return them to him in a special container. This was quite an honor and a challenge. We all learned a new vocabulary. A new approach to thinking; a scientific way to solve problems. Living in a rural community had prepared the boys and girls for a world of scientific discovery.

As a result of Dr. Carpenters work we were later asked to work on paper back science books written by Dr. Craig. We received a set of books for each grade for this effort.

We had to give demonstrations for other county schools not involved in the experiment. Much depended on the records. Just as we were going to play the records a storm came up and the electricity went off, but we

SCIENCE (cont.)

told what the record contained and saved the day. Thanks to my very good scientific pupils.

VISUAL AIDES

## NATURE TRAIL

We decided to make a Nature Trail which was a Craig suggestion. We decided to get permission from Mr. B. J. Knepp, Mr. James Hamilton and Mr. Smith (Chimney Corner).

We chopped a trail with saws and hatchets. Next we went through and labeled everything. We labeled trees and were able to identify them by shape of crown, leaves, and bark. We made one wild flower book. We never picked any though, we conserved them. We just drew many pictures.

We also made a bird booklet. We purchased a bird song record and bird books.

We put a car mirror on a tree branch so we could watch the baby birds hatch. We labeled one tree the saddle tree. Ten pupils could straddle it.

Our Nature Trail soon became famous. Miss Grace Alder, Baltimore, Maryland Board of Education, came to walk over the trail. She ruined her hose. Miss Alder thought she would catch one of the students by asking, "What kind of cloud is that?". She was astonished by the answer, "I think it's Cumulus, with some nimbus around the edges".

Miss Alder returned bringing Miss Gladys Hopkins. They made a movie and slides of the Red House Nature Trail. The slides, I believe, are still available in the visual arts department, Maryland State Board of Education.

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TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS OF THE RED HOUSE SCHOOL

One room school (frame building)

Naomi Lohr  
 Grace E. Browning  
 Lillie B. Weimer  
 Alice Wolfe  
 Mary J. Pickrell  
 Sadie Slaubaugh  
 Bertha Beehley  
 Ruth McCrobie  
 Marshall Wolfe  
 Harvey Fike  
 Earnest Parrach  
 Ethel Holler  
 Mary Ours  
 Eva Montgomery (Ream)  
 Anna Elrich (Getty)  
 Leona Ward  
 Grace Filer

1936 Red Brick School Building Principals

Grace E. Filer (Principal)  
 Marguerite (Cook) Wilson - Grades 1-2-3  
 Phyllis Williams  
 Edwin Elins  
 Sue Harvey (Substitute)  
 Hildred Mulvey  
 Dorothy W. Spaid

FUND RAISING

The children sold seeds in early Spring. The seeds were a penny a package and the large packages were five cents. Farmers without children in school would stop by and order seeds.. They were of a very high quality.

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FUND RAISING (cont.)

Red House began holding dinners when the new school was built. The menu usually was chicken or ham mashed potatoes, green beans with ham flavoring, baked corn, baked beans, harvard beets, applesause, pickles, homemade rolls and bread, gravy, coffee, tea, milk, cake, pie and you name it.

I do not exaggerate when I say the following cooks could never be equaled on this earth. They knew exactly how to season and used mostly their own receipts. They would start serving at 4:00 and would serve until 8:00. They served several hundred meals. People came from Oakland, Gormanian, Elkins, Terra Alta, Thomas and Davis.

These wonderful cooks were:

- Mrs. Frank Shaffer
- Mrs. Ben F. Knepp
- Mrs. Ray Mosser
- Mrs. Ira Miller (Mrs. Mossers sister-in-law)
- Mrs. James Hamilton
- Mrs. Herbert Soelders
- Mrs. John Bachtel
- Mrs. Amos Martin
- Mrs. Cyous Wolfe
- Mrs. Dewey Gnegy
- Mrs. Lee Shaffer
- Mrs. George Martin
- Mrs. Earl Harsh
- Miss Delia Wolfe
- Mrs. Darwin Hauser
- Mrs. Ernest Mosser
- Mrs. Mark Bachtel
- Mrs. Ernest Ridder
- Mrs. Paul Riley
- Mrs. Pearl Whitehair
- Mrs. Paul Bachtel
- Mrs. John Poling
- Mrs. Greely Janoske

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MY HONOR ROLL

I had five pupils who never had another teacher but me in Grades 1 thru 7. They were:

Bernard Bachtel  
Helen Gordon  
Harold (Buddy) Hamilton  
Orville Wolfe  
Blanche Wolfe

Bernard Eachtel gave his life for us on Iowa Jima. We never even saw him in uniform. He received one furlough at the end of Basic Training. He was a quiet, lovable, intellegent boy and he will always be a young man in my memory.

Buddy Hamilton keeps me up to date with a long letter each Christmas. He is an organist, and a Civil Engineer. He is a great person and I look forward to his letter each year.

Helen Gordon moved from Garrett County. She was an exceptional student.

Blanche Wolfe married and lives at Deep Creek Lake with her lovely family. Even in Elementary School she showed signs of being a perfect homemaker. She helped keep the classroom clean and tidy. She had a lovely persorality.

Orville Wolfe went on to Oakland High School. He was a good public speaker and should have been a lawyer. Orville lives in Richmond, Virginia and works with Virginia Carolina Wholesale Hardware as a buyer.

April 1976



MARYLAND

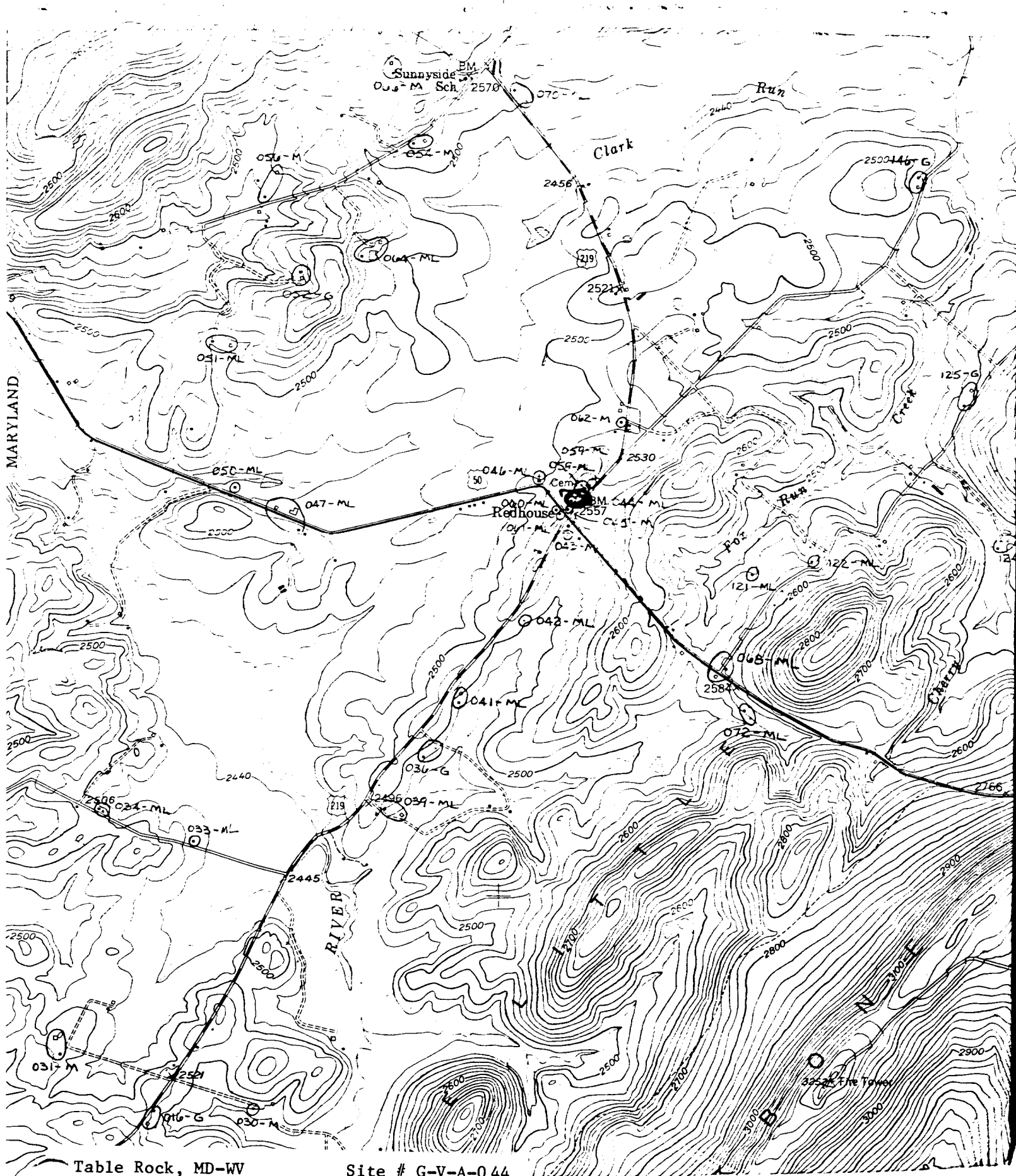


Table Rock, MD-WV  
USGS 7.5 minute series  
Scale - 1:24,000  
1948; photorevised 1974

Site # G-V-A-044  
Redhouse School  
Rt. 219 & 50  
N Corner



G-V-A-044

Redhouse School

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware 9-8-80

E elevation



G-V-A-044

Redhouse School

Garrett County, MD

Donna Ware

9-8-80

NW elevation rear



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REDHOUSE SCHOOL

Donna M. Ware - 8/20/1980